

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NASSAU 01290 261542Z
ACTION SCS-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 /020 W
-----071999 262344Z /70

R 261310Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9733

UNCLAS NASSAU 1290

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN CASC BF
SUBJ: W/W: MISSING PERSON, RICHARD HAMMERSTEIN

REF: NASSAU 1231

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED CALL FROM HAMMERSTEIN'S FORMER WIFE REGARDING RETENTION OF BAHAMIAN ATTORNEY IN OBVIOUS EFFORT TO RECOVER HAMMERSTEIN'S BOAT ON BEHALF OF HER CHILDREN WHO IT WOULD APPEAR MAY BE HAMMERSTEIN'S PRINCIPAL HEIRS. EMBASSY SENT HER LIST OF ATTORNEYS.

2. EMBASSY HAS SOUGHT OPINION OF BASRA (BAHAMAS AIR SEA RESCUE ASSOCIATION) REGARDING LIKELY CAUSE OF HAMMERSTEIN'S (OR OTHER) DISAPPEARANCE FROM VESSEL'S COCK PIT. BASED UPON ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION, BASRA BELIEVES THAT WHOEVER AT VESSELS TILLER FELL OVER BOARD FOR REASONS UNKNOWN AND WAS LOST AT SEA. BAHAMIAN MARITIME POLICE INVESTIGATION INDICATES NO RPT NO INDICATIONS OF FOUL PLAY. VESSEL WAS NOT ABANDONED, THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF DAMAGE WHICH COULD BE CAUSE FOR ANYONE TO ABANDON SHIP, AND DINGHY WAS FOUND LASHED IN PLACE.

3. EMBASSY RECENTLY RECEIVED MARITIME POLICE REPORT WHICH SUMS UP SITUATION: QUOTE: AT 2:30 P.M. WE (BAHAMIAN MARITIME POLICE) ARRIVED IN THE AREA OF SCRUB CAYS AND DISCOVERED THAT THERE WAS IN FACT A TWO (2)
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 NASSAU 01290 261542Z

MASTED YACHT AGROUND ABOUT TWO HUNDRED (200) YARDS OFF THE EASTERN END OF SAID CAYS WITH ALL THE SAILS STILL UP. WE BOARDED THE YACHT AND NOTICED SHE BORE THE NAME PEN DRAGON, CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND, U.S.A. THERE WAS NO ONE ABOARD, EVERYTHING SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN LEFT PRETTY MUCH INTACT. IT APPEARED TO ME THAT THE OCCUPANT OR OCCUPANTS MUST HAVE LEFT IN A HURRY OR IF THERE WERE

ONLY (1) PERSON ON BOARD, MUST HAVE FALLEN OVERBOARD
WHILE BOAT UNDERWAY AND WAS UNABLE TO GET BACK ON BOARD.
HENCE THE YACHT SAILED UNCONTROLLABLY INTO THE SAND
BARS WHERE SHE WAS FOUND. UNQUOTE.

4. EMBASSY IN POSSESSION OF PENDRAGON'S LOG IN WHICH
HAMMERSTEIN MAINTAINED FAIRLY DETAILED RECORD OF SHIPS
MOVEMENTS AND EVENTS.

5. ON AUGUST ONE LOG ENGRY READS: QUOTE: UNDER WAY
FOR NORMANS, CHANGE COURSE, WARDERICK WELLS ABEAM,
ANCHORED NORMANS. UNQUOTE. HAMMERSTEIN HAD SAILED
FROM STANIEL CAY TO NORMAN'S CAY ABOUT 45 MILES TO
SOUTHEAST.

6. QUOTE: AUG. TWO - LAYOVER BAD WEATHER. UNQUOTE

7. QUOTE: AUG. THREE - WEDNESDAY, WEIGHT ANCHOR AT
NORMANS, 0745 - CHANGED COURSE TO 000 AT NORMAN SPIT.
UNQUOTE.

8. THIS FINAL ENTRY WAS A COURSE CHANGE AND MAY
HAVE BEEN AN ERROR AS CRUB CAY, WHERE VESSEL WAS
FOUND, IS ON A HEADING OF 180 DEGREES FROM NORMAN'S
SPIT. LOG ALSO INDICATES HAMMERSTEIN WROTE
TO HIS FATHER, STAN (MATHISON), AND HIS CHILDREN
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PAGE 03 NASSAU 01290 261542Z

DURING AUGUST 1-3 PERIOD.

9. EMBASSY TO ISSUE FS-192 AMENDED TO PRESUMPTIVE
DEATH OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN BASED ON BAHAMIAN
MARITIME POLICE REPORT CITED ABOVE.
TAYLOR

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NASSAU01290
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770309-1224
Format: TEL
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770819/aaaaapip.tel
Line Count: 100
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Message ID: 51d85b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 NASSAU 1231
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1469398
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: W/W: MISSING PERSON, RICHARD HAMMERSTEIN
TAGS: CGEN, CASC, CDES, BF, US, (HAMMERSTEIN, RICHARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/51d85b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009